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MELTON & BELVOIR RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my tenth Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	113,025
Population Census 1921	14,436
" " 1931	14,717
Estimated resident population 1937	17,060
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1937 ..	4,924
Rateable value	£62,863
Sum represented by a penny rate	£250

Social Conditions.

The District is essentially agricultural, most of the land being grazed. On the industrial side there is an Iron-smelting Works at Asfordby, and there are Ironstone Quarries at Eaton, Sewstern, Holwell and Wartnaby.

Vital Statistics.

These include Births and Deaths in the Belvoir Rural District during the first quarter of the year.

Births, legitimate	M. 120	F. 110	Total	230
" illegitimate	M. 3	F. 5	Total	8
Totals:-	123	115		238

Birth-rate	13·9
Birth-rate for England & Wales	14·9
Still-births .. .. .. (all legitimate)	3
Deaths: Males 114. Females 125. Total	239
Crude Death-rate	14·0

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Comparative Death-rate (i.e. allowing for age and sex distribution)	11·4
Death-rate for England & Wales	12·4
Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 15 (all save one legitimate)	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	63
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	58

Causes of Death.

	Males.	Females.
All Causes.	114	125
Whooping cough	1	-
Diphtheria	1	-
Influenza	7	5
Respiratory tuberculosis	3	3
Other tuberculosis	-	2
Cancer, malignant disease	16	21
Diabetes	2	1
Cerebral haemorrhage etc.	2	8
Heart disease	33	37
Aneurysm	1	1
Other circulatory diseases	8	11
Bronchitis	5	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	5
Other respiratory diseases	1	1
Peptic ulcer	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-
Liver diseases	1	-
Other digestive diseases	2	3
Nephritis	5	3
Puerperal sepsis	-	-
Other puerperal causes	-	-
Congenital causes	7	5
Senility	2	3
Suicide	-	-
Other violence	3	1
Other defined diseases	12	12
Causes ill-defined or unknown	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are still applicable, no special alterations or developments having taken place during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts.

The Sanitary Inspector, who is also Sanitary Surveyor for the District, devotes the whole of his time to his official duties. He is aided by two Assistant Inspectors, who are also whole-time Officers.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water:-

A piped supply has been laid on to the villages of Holwell, Ab-Kettleby, Wartnaby, Clawson, Hose and Harby, under the Joint Water Scheme with the Melton Mowbray Urban District Council. The scheme will be completed during 1938.

Schemes for the supply of five other villages, Wymondham, Edmondthorpe, Garthorpe, Nether Broughton and Old Dalby, have been submitted to the Ministry of Health, and a scheme for Somerby is under consideration.

A scheme for the supply of the village of Eastwell was completed during the year and a chlorination plant has been installed.

Altogether a most creditable record.

No shortage was reported during the year.

Twelve samples of well water were analysed, eleven proving unsuitable for drinking. Four wells were cleansed and repaired.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

A sewerage scheme for Nether Broughton was completed during the year and the re-sewering and additions to the sewage-disposal works at Asfordby are nearing completion as is a new disposal works at Long Clawson.

A sewerage scheme for Waltham has been commenced and sewers totalling 735 yards have been laid in five other parishes.

Scavenging:-

Weekly collections of night-soil and house-refuse are now carried out by the Council's scavengers in fourteen of the larger villages, the refuse being taken to suitable tips and covered up. In most other villages periodical collections of tins are undertaken. Night-soil is taken on to arable land and ploughed.

Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District:	(1)	Privies	812
	(2)	Pail Closets	3,387
	(3)	Water Closets	952

Privies, Pail or Earth Closets:	No. converted to W.C's	42
Privies:	No. converted to Pail or Earth Closets	36

Sanitary Inspection:-

Total number of premises visited	.. ..	4,418
" " " complaints received	.. .. ..	50
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	..	2,325
" " " notices served - Informal 582, Formal 155	..	737
" " " defects remedied after service of notices		2,131
" " " summonses issued	.. ..	Nil

Total number of inspections and nature of such:-

Housing Inspections: 1st visits	.. .. ..	116
2nd visits	.. .. ..	514
Visits re Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	..	957
Infectious diseases and disinfection	.. ..	93
Cowsheds and Milkshops	.. ..	813
Slaughterhouses and Meatshops	.. .. ..	538
Drainage inspections	.. ..	334
Bakehouse inspections	.. ..	41
Workshop inspections	.. ..	32
Tents, Vans and Sheds	.. ..	16
Water Supplies	.. ..	315
New Buildings	.. ..	510
Sewers and Sewerage Works	.. ..	493
Scavenging Work and Tips	.. ..	476
Other Visits	.. ..	242
	TOTAL:-	5,490

Smoke Abatement:-

No nuisances have come under observation during the year.

Eradication of Bed-bugs:-

No cases came under observation and no houses were disinfested.

Swimming Baths and Pools:-

None in the District.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations:-

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District, and there are no Canal Boats. Sixteen inspections of two vans and sheds are recorded. They are satisfactory. There are three Offensive Trades in the District. Eighteen inspections were made, the conditions on the whole being satisfactory.

H O U S I N G.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	116
Number of inspections made for the purpose	514
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	108
Number of inspections made for the purpose	263
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	41
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..	44

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	42

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	37
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-

(a) By Owners .. .. Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 41

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 14

4. Housing Act, 1935: Overcrowding.

(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 38

ii. Number of families dwelling therein .. 45

iii. Number of persons dwelling therein .. 250

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil

(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 37

ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases 208

(d) Cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding None

27 houses have been erected by the Council to relieve overcrowding and 5 houses are in course of erection. Eleven more are contemplated.

INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

Retailers:	No. on Register		300
	No. of inspections of premises ..		261
	No. of contraventions found		77
	No. of contraventions remedied		77
Producers: (including Producers who retail their own milk).	No. on Register		791
	No. of inspections made		552
	Contraventions:	Found	Remedied
	(1) Cleansing	164	164
	(2) Structural alterations	103	103
	(3) Other	51	51

There are about 9,000 milch-cows in the District.

94 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination as to cleanliness, 50 being recorded as satisfactory and 44

as unsatisfactory. Concentration on uncleanly samples of course raises their percentage.

One licence and two supplementary licences to sell Pasteurized Milk was granted.

One supplementary licence to sell milk as Accredited was also granted.

Meat and other Foods:-

No. of public abattoirs in District .. .. .. NONE

Private slaughter houses:-	In January 1937	In December 1937
No. registered	20	20
No. licenced	10	10
No. of inspections of premises		423
No. of inspections of meat at time of slaughter		347

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected	551	-	40	1662	1207	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	2	3	2124 lbs.
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	14	-	-	181	23	873 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	2·07	-	-	11·01	2·15	-
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	-	-	-	13	249 lbs.
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4·00	-	-	-	1·77	-

Meat Stalls:-

No. of inspections .. .. Nil

Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:-

No. of inspections 115

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

Bakehouses and Cheese Factories are regularly inspected and are very well kept. 79 inspections are recorded.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of Infectious Disease came under observation:-

Disease.	Cases notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	58	49	-
Diphtheria	18	19	1
Pneumonia	17	1	7
Erysipelas	2	2	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	1	-

Two cases of OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM were notified. The patients were treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

SCARLET FEVER:- The cases were distributed as follows:- Asfordby 5, Eaton 8, Freeby 3, Hose 12, Holwell 2, Pickwell 3, Plungar 2, Saltby 2, Somerby 6, Stathern 2, Wymondham 2, and single cases in eleven other parishes.

DIPHTHERIA:- Eleven cases were reported in Asfordby, four in Bottesford, and single cases at Barkestone, Easthorpe and Saltham.

In addition to the above, the following cases of TUBERCULOSIS were notified:-

Age-Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 and under 5 years	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 " " 10 "	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 " " 15 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " 20 "	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " 25 "	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 " " 35 "	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1
35 " " 45 "	2	2	-	-	1	1	-	1
45 " " 65 "	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	4	5	-	2	3	3	-	2

The fatal cases had been previously notified. Three of the deaths occurred in hospitals or sanatoria outside the District.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor was any action called for under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The bacteriological and other examinations made at the County Laboratory included the following from this District:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological)	218
" (for fat content)	2
Sputa for Tuberculosis	60
Urine for Tuberculosis	6
" (general & bacteriological) ..	6
Swabs for Diphtheria	72
Sewage and water analyses	42
Miscellaneous	8
	414

Factories & Workshops:-

1. Inspections:-

Factories (including Factory-Laundries)	No. of inspections	31
	No. of written notices	4
Workshops (including Workshop-Laundries)	No. of inspections	42
	No. of written notices	7

2. Defects found:-

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:-	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	11	11

No instances of Outwork on unsuitable premises have come under observation, and it has not been necessary to refer any matter to H.M. Inspector.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

26th May, 1938.